

## The Pearl Essay Prompt

Choose 1 of the following prompts to answer in an essay. Your essay should include at least 5 paragraphs, 3 quotes, and proper MLA citations.

You will be graded on the following items:

- MLA format
  - Heading in top left: Name, date, class/period, teacher name
  - Header in top right- last name and page number
  - Times new roman 12 font
  - Double spaced essay with no extra space between paragraph
- A 3 step introduction
  - Start with a general comment on the topic
  - Include a FATt sentence- 1 sentence with the focus, author, title, and text type
  - End with your specific thesis statement
- your thesis statement
  - Your position is stated clearly and concisely
  - You include 3 reasons
- Body paragraphs
  - Start the paragraph with a specific claim or argument
  - selection of evidence is logical and appropriate for argument
  - MLA citations- quotes include (Steinbeck #).
  - Provide commentary/analysis to explain how the evidence supports your claim
- A 3 step conclusion
  - Summarize your thesis and subpoints
  - Relate to larger theme that applies to all humans

Topics:

- 1) What comment does *The Pearl* make on luck and/or faith? Does Steinbeck appear to believe in a higher power? Does he lean towards religion or chance? What might Steinbeck be trying to teach readers about the nature of life? Do things happen because they are destined to because a god/gods determined it? Because life is random and unfair? Or because humans have free will and there are consequences for their actions?
- 2) What comment/s does the text make on race and socioeconomic status? Explain how Kino's position in society dictates his future. Does Kino have any control over his life, or is his fate determined by his status?
- 3) Explain the role of tradition and song within the text. How does song influence Kino's actions throughout the novel?
- 4) Explain how the symbolic significance of the pearl shifts throughout the novel. Explain its meaning at the beginning, middle, and end of the story. In your conclusion, be sure to address why Steinbeck might have chosen to have the pearl's meaning change.